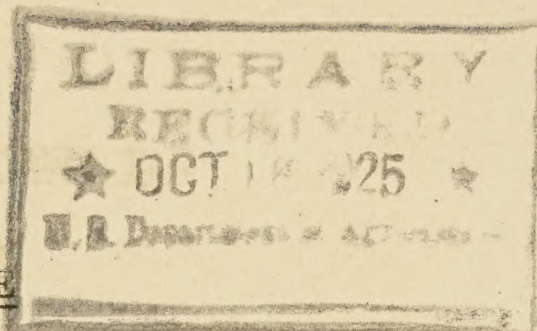


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service
Office of Exhibits

A Summary of the Exhibit

RAT DESTRUCTION AND CONTROL

A booth exhibit showing the rat at work
in the home; how rats spread disease;
what rats cost the United States annually;
and methods of control.

Specifications

Floor space - - - - - 10 feet front,
4' 8" deep
Wall space - - - - - None
Shipping weight - - - - - 680 lbs.
Electrical requirements - - - None

RAT DESTRUCTION AND CONTROL

How It Looks

An exhibit such as this, showing the most destructive animal in the world at work, should be of interest to almost everybody. In the middle of the center section of the booth is a scene showing the rat at work in the cellar, pantry, and bedroom closet of a house. In the cellar the head of a rat is seen just emerging through a broken soil pipe. He then gnaws through partitions and is next seen in the pantry, standing on a roast of meat and nibbling at a cake on the shelf just above the meat. He is next shown upstairs, where he has gnawed his way into the closet, and continues his destructive work by chewing up thread, linen, ribbon, etc. He has tracked the filth from the soil pipe into almost every part of the house. The remainder of the section is covered with symbolical placards with text showing the cost of rat destruction.

The left section, entitled "Relation of the Rat to Public Health", shows two large placards which are entitled "Bubonic Plague - A Rat-Borne Disease", and "The Rat - An Important Factor in the Spread of Trichinosis." The text on these placards tells of the function of the rat in relation to the spread of these diseases.

The right section contains 12 photographs dealing with methods of poisoning, fumigation, trapping, rat-proofing, sanitation, and rat campaigns. The booth is 10 feet across the front, 4 ft 8 in deep, and 7 feet, 4 inches high.

What it Tells

House rats are of more general concern to the people of the United States than any other wild-animal pest. They are aggressive in establishing and maintaining themselves everywhere that they can gain a foothold. They are the most destructive species of animal in the world and one of the most dangerous from the standpoint of carrying and transmitting communicable diseases of man and domestic animals. These animals breed 6 to 10 times a year with an average of 10 young to the litter. They breed much more rapidly where there is abundant food and plenty of shelter. The average destruction of property by a rat is reckoned at \$2.00 per year. Many rats destroy much greater values depending upon the kind of property attacked. The total loss of property due to depredations of rats and mice is estimated at \$200,000,000 per year in the United States. These losses occur in the field, farm building, dairy, poultry house, residence, warehouse, freight and express car, market, factory and everywhere that rats gain access. They attack human beings, especially small children, causing infectious wounds, and serve as carriers of such deadly diseases as bubonic plague.

Lack of effective control effort and the abundance of food and shelter in cities, towns, and rural districts has enabled rats to establish themselves in almost every State in the Union. While these animals are admittedly difficult to control, the Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has found that a few simple, practical means persistently and unitedly used will eliminate these pests from farm or community and establish permanent control. This may be accomplished by rat-proof construction and repair of buildings, closing basement

ws and all openings which provide entrance for disposing of garbage and getting rid of piles of trash and refuse where rats find food and shelter, finding them wherever possible and systematically poisoning them elsewhere, fumigating rat burrows with poisonous gases as carbon bisulphide, calcium cyanide or hydrocyanic-acid gas, using effective rat-killing dogs and organizing community rat-killing campaigns.

The Biological Survey assists in organizing extensive campaigns against these pests by furnishing information regarding their habits and destructiveness, information in regard to practical control measures and also concerning plans for organized community effort. So far as possible specialists trained and skilled in repression and control methods in community organization are detailed to demonstrate and assist in conducting organized campaigns. These men work in cooperation with the State Extension Service, Health Departments, Chambers of Commerce and other representative local organizations. These campaigns have received the active support of the press, State, county and municipal officials, business men, civic, social, and welfare clubs, and patriotic spirited citizens generally. In this way nationwide attention is being given to the matter of getting rid of rats, citizens are doing more effective work in fighting rats and consistent, steady headway is being made in their repression and in eliminating the source of serious loss and grave danger.

Where to Get Information

The following publication may be obtained free of charge from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Farmers' Bulletin 1302 - "How to Get Rid of Rats."